

HOW TO MAKE FARM HOMES ATTRACTIVE

"Beautification of our surroundings is one of the greatest social needs of Kansas today, ranking favorably with the need for better education, sanitation, and recreation," says C. R. Phipps, head of the department of Agriculture in the Kansas State Normal School at Emporia. "All of us desire beautiful homes and surroundings, and this is especially true of women, since they spend much time within the sphere of the

home environment. Men also, have a strong natural desire for beauty though they are sometimes too stubborn or too proud to admit it.

Why Farmers Move to Town

"It is the desire for beauty, coupled with the fact that the city has done more than the country in beautifying its surroundings, that has turned the attention of the farm family toward city life, and has helped to fasten interest in a city home. This factor is not the least important of those that have directed farm families to the city as a place to spend the rest of their days. The attitude these farm families take is not one so positively in favor of city life as it is one so negatively for country life. Lack of conveniences, sanitation, recreation, education, and beautification are all felt in the

country.

"Already the country is getting better schools at a rapid rate. Many rural communities have nurses, and some are establishing centers for recreation. Motors and labor-saving devices are going into many rural homes.

"But the farm home yard is as untidy as it ever was. The average school ground as barren of trees, the church yard is as forlorn, and the rural buildings need paint as badly as ever; or the same unharmonious color schemes are used where the buildings have been painted. In the country, the farm is both the place of business and the home. Here the money is made and spent. The farm family spends most of its time at home, and it is very important that the surroundings should be attractive, if interest is to be maintained in country homes.

Planting the Home Grounds

"In planting the home grounds the thing should not be overdone," Mr. Phipps explained. "It is easy to get too many trees, shrubs and flowers into the yard, and especially easy to get too many kinds of plants in one yard. One to three kinds of trees, including evergreens, and a half dozen kinds of shrubs give better effect than where one tries to collect and display every conceivable species of ornamental plants. Just as it is possible for one's person to be over-dressed and overdecorated, so it is possible for one's lawn to be overplanted.

Common Mistakes to be Avoided

"We carelessly and ignorantly do many foolish and absurd things in attempting to beautify our yards. For instance, here are some common mistakes we make, all of which should be avoided: flower beds in circles or geometrical designs made in the center of the lawn; trellis built in front yard for a vine; flower beds edged with rocks, bottles, shells, etc.; tile or old stove or tub placed in front yard for a flower vine; rocks piled up in a heap to imitate nature; trees, fences, rock piles whitewashed; evergreens that are naturally beautiful, trimmed in regular or grotesque shapes, a relic of bygone days that is as out of date as slavery; use expensive and ornamental fences which attract attention to a necessary evil (all fences are ugly, and the yard fence may be covered by a privet or mulberry or lilac hedge); use unharmonious color combinations on the buildings—colors that fairly scream at one; place statues of animals or personages in the yard; and many other mistakes, which folks who are otherwise good citizens per-

sist in making. And the worst of it is—here is where our money for beautification has been going.

How to Beautify the Yard

"How may one beautify the yard? Here are a few simple suggestions, which and one may follow safely in developing a natural plan: Place the house to one side of the yard, or the yard to one side of the house, thus leaving a large open space extending entirely through the yard; leave the central open area unbroken; do not plant anything or place anything in it; group trees about the house for protection; plant trees in row along street; mass a few evergreens along the rear fence; group shrubs in heavy masses along the border fences, and plant flowers in front of the shrubs; plant shrubs about the foundation of the house; cover the yard fence with a hedging plant; place no artificial material in the yard; choose good durable paint, of soft shades and harmonious colors for all the buildings; and above all else, have a plan, keep things in good order, and keep the yard clean, for cleanliness is the first essential requisite of beauty. This applies to the back yard as well as the front.

"There it is then—neither an extensive or expensive program, one must admit. It is one that will give good results and satisfaction. It will make home life on the farm more attractive, and it will make one feel that it pays to take time to live in this beautiful world of ours."

HARD ON THE HOG

One freshman, while home on his vacation, went out in the barnyard to look at the cattle. The cattle, not recognizing the college air, stamped and trampled a hog to death—Kansas State Normal Bulletin.

C. M. Yocum was a business visitor in Forgan Monday of this week.

Mrs. F. M. Frey and children are spending a week visiting with friends in Dalhart, Texas.

Wade Messersmith and wife returned Sunday night from Forgan and Floris, Oklahoma, where they have been visiting with friends.

Miss Marie Yarberry returned on Saturday from Plains, where she had been visiting with relatives during the past week.

Mrs. Herman Dipler of Pratt, who has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. John Hoover, here, returned home last Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Holman of Dalhart, Texas, returned home Monday on No. 1. They came up to attend the family reunion at the Ellexson home in the Dombey, Oklahoma, neighborhood a few days ago. Mrs. Holman is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ellexson.

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